

Police, who held his seat at first by special appointment and later ex-officio. To these names that of Paschal Breland, who had rendered such valuable assistance to Lieutenant-Governor Morris, was presently added. Before Governor Laird's regime ended, the Council also included the Honorable Lawrence Clerke, Hudson Bay Company's chief factor, who was chosen by the voters of Lorne in the first election held in the North West, 1881.

The members of the Council were sworn in on November 27, 1876, at Livingstone, Swan River, where the first session of the Territorial Council was also held in March, 1877, pending the erection of Government buildings at Battleford. Livingstone was therefore the first provisional capital of the North West.

It is hard to restrain a smile as one reads the journals of this miniature legislative body. It was possessed of a thoroughly adequate conception of its own dignity, and duly observed time-honored customs from the throne to his three or four associates, and they in turn would present an address in reply. From time to time, however, the entries in the journals indicate some of the difficulties attendant upon the conduct of public affairs by so small a group of legislators, required to travel vast distances to attend their official meetings. Such entries as the following are not uncommon:

"At two o'clock p. m. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor took the chair.

"Present.....Mr. Ryan./page 193.

"There not being a quorum of members present, His Honor adjourned the Council.

To attend the session at Swan River, Colonel MacLeod was obliged to travel from MacLeod to Franklin, thence by rail to St. Paul and Moorehead, by stage to Winnipeg, and from there by dog train 330 miles to the provisional capitol.

It is interesting to note the nature of the first petitions laid on the table of the Council: